

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 AF-10 IO-14 EB-11

COA-02 DRC-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 /158 W

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R 121000Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9138

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3664

PASS AMB RIVERO

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, PO, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH REACTION TO PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MADRID 3258

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE EVENTS ARE RECEIVING LESS FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN SPANISH PRESS, GOS ITSELF HAS TAKEN INCREASINGLY HARD LINE TO DISCOURAGE SECTORS WHICH SEEK TO PROMOTE PARTICULAR POLITICAL GOALS FOR SPAIN BY PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS. SPANISH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS AND JOURNALISTS ARE STILL FLOCKING TO PORTUGAL, POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT SPAIN WILL BE PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED BY PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS OVER LONG RUN. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN REVIEW OF PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH HEAD OF

WEST EUROPEAN DIVISION IN MFA JUNE 6, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE APRIL 25, MFA HAD NOT PREPARED SPECIAL REPORT ON PORTUGAL FOR WEEKLY CABINET MEETING. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS CONTINUING INTEREST IN GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS, GOS HAD ADOPTED WAIT-AND-SEE POSITION AS SO MANY FACETS OF PORTUGUESE SITUATION WERE STILL FLUID.

2. MFA BELIEVED THAT NEW COUNCIL OF STATE, WITH ITS OVERWHELMING MILITARY CHARACTER, WOULD DEVELOP INTO KEY POLITICAL ORGAN. MEANWHILE, SPAIN WAS CONCERNED WITH APPARENT COMMUNIST PARTY DOMINATION OF NEW INTERSYNDICAL GROUPING OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. GOS HAD ALSO NOTICED THAT COMMUNIST PARTY HAD PLAYED POSITIVE ROLE IN RECENT RESOLUTION OF STRIKES AND OTHER LABOR DISTURBANCES BUT WAS HESITANT TO ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS FACT.

3. MFA BELIEVED THAT NEW POLITICAL PARTY KNOWN AS PORTUGUESE POPULAR MOVEMENT REPRESENTED POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE IT WAS HEADED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CARNEIRO AND REPRESENTED LEADERS FROM DEDES GROUP AND EXPRESSO MAGAZINE PLUS A NUMBER OF PEOPLE FURTHER TO THE RIGHT.

4. WITH RESPECT TO COLONIALIZATION ISSUE, GOS HAD LEARNED THAT SOARES HAD SUCCEEDED IN HAVING ISSUE OF CAPE VERDE SEPARATED FROM ISSUE OF GUINEA-BISSAU IN HIS RECENT TALKS IN LONDON. ACCORDING TO MFA, MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK FOR SETTLEMENT WITH GUINEA-BISSAU REBELS WAS PROBLEM OF BLACK SOLDIERS FIGHTING WITH PORTUGUESE FORCES.

5. RE BILATERAL RELATIONS, MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FEARED THAT FORMER RIGHT-WING LEADERS AND OFFICIALS IN PORTUGAL WOULD END UP BY ADOPTING ANTI-FACIST AND CONSEQUENTLY ANTI-SPANISH STANCE AS MEANS OF INGRATIATING THEMSELVES WITH NEW MILITARY REGIME. MEANWHILE, GOS HAD DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY MAJOR MOVE WITH NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT (EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT IT WAS SPAIN WHICH CANCELLED PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MILITARY MEETING OF IBERIAN PACT
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JUNE 27).

6. SPANIARDS, IN PARTICULAR OPPOSITION LEADERS AND JOURNALISTS, ARE CONTINUING TO VISIT PORTUGAL FOR PURPOSE OF ASSESSING NEW SITUATION. OPPOSITION SOCIALISTS HAVE MADE SEVERAL VISITS AND HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY SOARES, MOST RECENTLY WEEK OF JUNE 3-7. HIGHEST OFFICIAL BILATERAL CONTACT WAS HELD PREVIOUS WEEK

IN LONDON WHERE SOARES HAD 1 1/2 HOUR MEETING WITH SPANISH AMBASSADOR FRAGA IRIBARNE, A FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM OFTEN MENTIONED AS PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER. GOS ITSELF HAS REFRAINED FROM ANY POLITICAL STATEMENTS SINCE APRIL 25. FRANCO'S NEPHEW, NICOLAS FRANCO PASCUAL DE POBIL, WHO IS SON OF HIS ELDER BROTHER, A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO LISBON, MADE STATEMENT JUNE 5 AT ANNUAL MEETING OF SPANISH/PORTUGUESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. FRANCO REFERRED TO PROFOUND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION EXPERIENCED BY PORTUGUESE AND COMPLIMENTED PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AND AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR COMMON SENSE, MODERATION AND CIVIC SPIRIT THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF RADICAL CHANGE. HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS HOPE FOR CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

7. ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE EVENTS NO LONGER OCCUPY FRONT PAGE, SPINOLA'S BOOK AS TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH, HAS BECOME ONE OF TEN BEST SELLERS. MEANWHILE, TWO BOOKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN PAST TWO WEEKS BY SPANISH AUTHORS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. FIRST ENTITLED "PORTUGAL YES" WAS WRITTEN BY CORRESPONDENTS OF INFORMACIONES (INDEPENDENT) AND PUBLISHED BY "CUADERNOS PARA EL DIALOGO", A WELL-KNOWN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PUBLISHING HOUSE IN SPAIN. SECOND BOOK WAS RELEASED TO PRESS JUNE 6 AND WAS ENTITLED "REVOLUTION OF THE FLOWER".

8. GOS HAS PREVENTED AT LEAST TWO RECENT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN MADRID SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION OF RELATIONSHIP OF RECENT PORTUGUESE EVENTS TO SITUATION IN SPAIN. ONE MEETING INCLUDED KNOWN REPRESENTATIVES OF UNOFFICIAL SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED PORTUGAL. GOS ALSO CONFISCATED JUNE 7 SPECIAL ISSUE OF MONTHLY REVIEW DEDICATED TO PORTUGAL EDITED BY "CUADERNOS PARA EL CONFIDENTIAL

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DIALOGO".

9. EMBOFF HAS BEEN TOLD BY MEMBER OF OFFICIAL FAMILY AT PRESIDENCY THAT GOS IS PREPARING TO ANNOUNCE NEW AND IMPORTANT STEP IN DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONS OF SPANISH SAHARA TO EXERCISE SELF-DETERMINATION. SIMILARLY, ANOTHER SOURCE SAID THAT GOS WAS CONSIDERING SPEED-UP IN DECOLONIALIZATION OF SPAIN'S LAST OVERSEAS TERRITORY.

10. NEW DIRECTOR OF MFA'S OFFICE FOR EAST EUROPE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS JUNE 10 THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF PORTUGUESE-SOVIET DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ANNOUNCED JUNE 9 WOULD GREATLY AFFECT SPAIN'S TIES WITH SOVIET UNION. HENCEFORTH, USSR, HE SAID, WOULD BE IN FAVORABLE POSITION TO PLAY OFF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ON NUMBER OF ISSUES; E.G., AIR LANDING

PRIVILEGES IN MADRID AND LISBON, PORT FISHING PRIVILEGES
IN MID-ATLANTIC (CANARIES, MADEIRA, AZORES), ETC. GOS
WOULD NOT WANT TO LOSE REVENUE-EARNING BASE NOW PROVIDED
BY ITS CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOVIETS FOR USE OF
CANARIES.

11. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE ALL COMMENTED ON THE
TREMENDOUS IMPACT WHICH PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE HAD
ON LOCAL SITUATION. WITH REGARD TO BOTH EVOLUTION OF
SPAIN'S POLITICAL FUTURE INTERNALLY AS WELL AS FUTURE OF
SPAIN'S LAST COLONY IN SAHARA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH
EAST EUROPE. GOS ITSELF UNDOUBTEDLY WANTS TO PREVENT
REACTION FROM GENERATING NEW PRESSURES WHICH WOULD
ACCELERATE ARIAS NAVARRO'S OWN SCHEDULE, ANNOUNCED
FEB 12, FOR LIBERALIZING DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS.
PROGRESS MADE IN PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS
LEADERS OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES LIKELY TO STIMULATE
SPANISH DISPOSITION TO ADVANCE DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA,
WHERE SPANISH HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE ECONOMIC
STAKE EXCEPT FOR FISHERIES AND PHOSPHATES, AND THUS HAVE
MORE FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING PRESSURES FOR DECOLONIZATION
FROM SAHARA'S NEIGHBORS AND OTHERS.
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